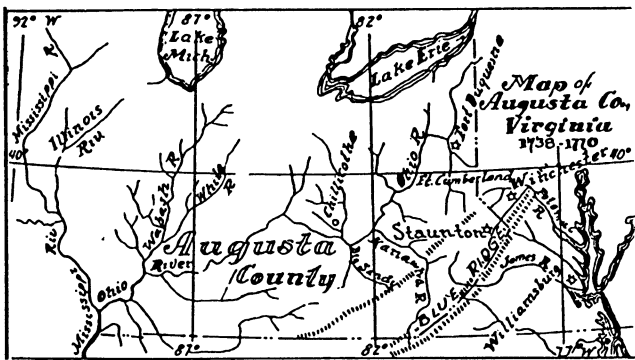


# AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN



JED HOTCHKISS

AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 25

SPRING 1989

NUMBER 1

# AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY — 1987-1989

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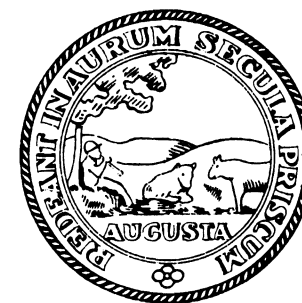
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# AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN

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### NOTICE

Dues are assessed for each calendar year. Notices of dues are sent in November prior to the year in which due. This is done to allow you to pay and take the income tax deduction in the year you prefer. Members who have not paid by February first are re-billed. Members who have not paid by May first are dropped from membership.

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## CONTENTS

Augusta County Then and Now, 1738-1988 . Justice George M. Cochran

Augusta County Courthouses . . . . . Brenda Morris

Addenda: 1) present courthouse, John B. Davis  
2) circuit courtroom

Augusta County celebrates 250th Anniversary . . . . . Richard Miller

Historic Map Presented to the County

The New Augusta County Flag

The Seal of Augusta County, Virginia

Augusta County Obituaries 1868 . . . . . Anne Covington Kidd

In Memoriam

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Annual (individual) . . . . .	\$7.00
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## **"1738-1988: AUGUSTA COUNTY THEN AND NOW"\***

By

Justice George M. Cochran

During the first hundred years after the settlement of Jamestown in 1607, Virginia west of the Blue Ridge was known only to the Indians and perhaps an occasional trapper or hunter. Some English settlers moved up the tidal rivers and established villages, tobacco farms, and self-sufficient plantations such as Westover, Shirley, and Brandon, all on the James, which have survived to the present day. Others, to escape real or imagined religious intolerance in Maryland, moved south across the Potomac and populated the Northern Neck, that part of Virginia lying between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers.<sup>1</sup> The center of political and social life in the colony first was Jamestown, until a destructive fire in 1698, and then Williamsburg, organized as Middle Plantation in 1633, and renamed when it became the capital of the colony in 1699.

The Blue Ridge mountains formed a physical and psychological barrier to those who lived in the comparative safety of the Tidewater. There was no incentive for those who had accumulated large land holdings east of the mountains to venture into the unknown wilderness. The indentured servants and slaves had no right to become adventurers and the small landowners, artisans, shopkeepers, and laborers had no desire to perform heroic explorations to achieve, if they survived, results probably inferior to what, by dint of hard work, they were already enjoying.

There was no doubt, however, that the eastern Virginians claimed the land west of the mountains as part of Virginia. Robert Beverley, a prominent resident of Jamestown and later of King and Queen County, wrote an entertaining history published in 1705. He therein described Virginia as bounded on the south by North Carolina, on the north by the Potomac River, "on the east by the main ocean (called the Virginia Seas), and on the west and northwest by the California Sea, whenever the settlements shall be extended so far".<sup>2</sup> Beverley mentioned the mountains in his history but acknowledged that he had never seen them. This omission he apparently corrected, however, because he was listed as a member of Governor Alexander Spotswood's party that in 1716 rode over the Blue Ridge, crossed the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, and planted the royal flag on the river bank in what became Augusta County.<sup>3</sup> From this unique experience he may have inspired his son, William Beverley, to take an interest in acquiring lands for the settlement of this County.

\*Presented at the Fall Meeting, November 9, 1988.

The Knights of the Golden Horseshoe, as Spotswood called his group of explorers, though widely acclaimed as daring adventurers, were not soon followed by permanent settlers from east Virginia. That part of the state, moreover, continued to develop, requiring that new counties be split off from the old. Thus, in 1721, Spotsylvania County was formed from Essex, King William, and King and Queen.

Settlement of the Valley was initiated from the northeast, primarily from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The great attraction was more extensive arable land, eagerly sought by Germans and Ulster Irish, later known as the Scotch-Irish, many of whom had come through the port of Newcastle, Delaware, and Philadelphia, to settle in Pennsylvania. Although the Germans were Lutherans, German Reformed, and Mennonites,<sup>4</sup> and the Scotch-Irish were Presbyterians, both ethnic groups were willing to risk the dangers not only of nature but of theology in a remote section of a colony in which only the Church of England was officially recognized and only Protestants were welcome. The Germans, who for many years suffered from their exclusive use of the German language in their work, their worship, and their education, were probably the first persons to settle the Valley.

Yost Hite settled and claimed extensive lands near the present City of Winchester in 1731<sup>5</sup>, the year before John Lewis moved up the Valley to a tract near the present City of Staunton. There is compelling evidence that Adam Miller settled with other Germans near the present site of Elkton as early as 1726 or 1727<sup>6</sup> and that the Cowpasture River was known by that name in 1727.<sup>7</sup> All the land west of the Blue Ridge was a part of Spotsylvania County until the establishment of Orange County in 1734.

The influx of settlers from Pennsylvania continued unabated. Some had paid nominal amounts to land promoters with dubious claims of title, others had merely taken possession of unoccupied lands, and few were more than resourceful "squatters" in new territory.<sup>8</sup> When William Beverley, then Clerk of the Court and Burgess of Essex County, received a patent, however, in 1736 for 118,419 acres comprising Beverley's Manor he dealt generously with the settlers living on these lands. Thus, John Lewis received title to his 2,071 acres from Beverley in 1739 for 14 pounds and Beverley even wrote this off because Lewis had entertained and made welcome so many new settlers to whom Beverley had sold lands.<sup>9</sup> Beverley continued to act aggressively to recruit new settlers for the area. As his agent, a ship's captain, James Patton, brought a ship load of immigrants from Ulster to Beverley's lands in 1738. Patton and his immediate family settled on South River on land granted to him for his successful recruitment services; his sister's family, the John Prestons, made their home nearby but later moved to property now comprising a part of Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton.<sup>10</sup>

In November of 1738, the 12th year of the reign of King George II, the Lieutenant Governor, Council, and Burgesses of the General Assembly enacted Chapter XXI establishing Frederick and Augusta Counties.<sup>11</sup> The Act recited that "great numbers of people have settled themselves of late ...

on the north-west side of the Blue ridge of Mountains", and the strength and security of the colony "upon the frontiers, and his majesty's revenues of quit-rents are like to be much increased and augmented", so that prospective settlers should be encouraged to come there. Accordingly, that part of Orange County on the northwest side of the top of the mountains "extending ... northerly, westerly, and southerly ... to the utmost limits of Virginia" was divided by a designated line into the two named counties. Nevertheless, the two counties were to remain part of Orange County and St. Mark's parish until it appeared to the Governor and Council that the population was sufficient to justify appointment of justices of the peace and other officers and establishment of courts. The counties were exempted from public levies for a period of 10 years and were denied any allowance for killing wolves. The "freeholders and householders" were directed to meet when the Governor or Commander-in-chief, with the advice of Council, shall appoint and elect 12 "of the most able and discreet persons of their parishes ... to be the vestries" of the new parishes in the counties.

The blissful period of tax exemption ended, not after the 10 years originally prescribed, but after less than four years had passed. For undoubtedly the only time in the history of Augusta County the inhabitants asked that they be taxed. In the words of the statute, they "made humble suit to this Assembly, to have a tax" of two shillings a year levied for the purpose of hiring persons to destroy wolves and for other public purposes.<sup>12</sup> The General Assembly enacted the law, Chapter XVIII, in May 1742, levying the requested tax annually on every tithable person and appointing James Patton, John Christian, and John Buchanan trustees to receive the levies, hire persons to destroy wolves, relieve the poor, build bridges, and clear roads in such proportions as directed by the court-martial. The number of tithable persons in the county in 1742 could not have been large as there were only 1,670 in 1747.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, at two shillings (33-1/3¢) per tithable, after paying to kill the wolves, the public nuisance which seems primarily to have promoted the request for taxes, the trustees were not going to have much of a "pork barrel" from which to give undue assistance to the poor or spend excessively on bridges and roads.<sup>14</sup>

The early settlers, whether Scotch-Irish or German, were thrifty, industrious, independent, and God-fearing. In the beginning the pioneers held family religious services in their own homes. In 1738, the Rev. James Anderson, a Presbyterian minister from Pennsylvania, visited the Scotch-Irish settlers and at the home of John Lewis preached the first sermon in this community.<sup>15</sup> Under the law Dissenters were permitted to practice their religion freely provided their meeting houses were licensed and registered in the county courts and their ministers sworn to various oaths of loyalty. Even then, the ministers could not perform marriages. Therefore, until the establishment of courts and the local Church of England in the county, couples had to make the arduous trip to Orange to be married.<sup>16</sup>

Soon after Augusta was separated from Orange, the Scotch-Irish managed to employ a resident minister, the Rev. John Craig, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh. Under his stewardship permanent Presbyterian meeting houses were built at Augusta and Tinkling Spring, but not without considerable controversy.<sup>19</sup> Two leaders of the county, John Lewis and James Patton, each with the title of colonel, and each unable or unwilling to agree with the other on any subject, made life miserable for Mr. Craig in dealing with problems in the Tinkling Spring congregation.<sup>18</sup> Nevertheless, Patton placed his nephew, William Preston, with Mr. Craig for tutoring<sup>19</sup> and the student soon became one of the strongest leaders on the frontier.

In 1745, Augusta County was organized with its own county government. The first entry made on November 4, 1745, Deed Book 1, page 1, recorded the appointment of John Madison as clerk of Augusta County. Recorded on December 10, 1745, in Deed Book 1, at page 3, is a letter from William Beverley, in Williamsburg, to the Court of Augusta. The letter states that the Governor and Council have ordered that the Court of Augusta County be held in the courthouse "I built for that purpose at my Mill Place". Beverley then writes that he will come to the court "before the Spring" and make a deed for the court house and two acres on which the county could build a prison and stocks. It was not until 1749, however, that Beverley made good on his commitment. By deed dated April 21, 1749, and recorded in Deed Book 2, Part 2, page 246, for the consideration of 6 pounds he conveyed 25 acres described by metes and bounds to the 18 named "Justices in the Commission of the peace" in trust forever "for the use of a courthouse of Augusta County". With their own forum available for settling disputes, the contentious and litigious Augusta inhabitants happily went to court early and often in the county seat, originally known as Beverley's Mill place, but soon renamed Staunton.

The first vestry in Augusta was elected in 1746. For lack of Church of England members most of the vestrymen, including James Patton, were Dissenters.<sup>20</sup> The vestry levied taxes for the support of the parish and relief of the poor. Upon employment of a minister, much of the inconvenience of traveling to Orange was eliminated, and Dissenters could marry in Augusta.

It is generally agreed that the Augusta County part of the Valley was no more forested when the settlers came from Pennsylvania than in the modern era; nor was it permanently occupied by any Indian tribe.<sup>21</sup> Indians used it as a hunting ground and as a route for moving either north or south, east or west, to fight other Indians. Accordingly, it was not necessary for the settlers to fight their way into the Valley; once here, they were free from organized Indian attacks during the crucial early years of settlement.<sup>21</sup> The threat of Indian aggression, however, was always present. In 1738, settlers represented to the Governor and his Council that northern Indians passing through their lands had committed frequent outrages and had killed one of their men. Accordingly, John Lewis was appointed a captain "over such of the Inhabitants as live in Beverley Manor," and arms and ammunition were

ordered sent to him but Lewis was directed not to attack any Indians unless the Indians struck first.<sup>23</sup>

The policy of encouraging settlement of the frontier to provide a buffer against the Indians was continued for some years. Chapter XXI of the Acts of the General Assembly enacted in February 1752 stated that it would be a means of cultivating "a good correspondence with the neighbouring Indians if a proper encouragement be given to persons, to settle on the waters of the Mississippi River, in the county of Augusta". Any settlers moving to that area, therefore, would be exempted from paying public, county, and parish levies for 10 years.<sup>24</sup>

The concern of the settlers and the government in Williamsburg was justified. The French and Indians posed a serious threat to Augusta County as more and more land was occupied by settlers. It may surprise many to learn that the colonial government resorted to an unusual device for financing military operations to defend the frontier. By Chapter I, effective May 1, 1755, the General Assembly provided for raising 6,000 pounds to protect against "insults and incroachments of the French" by selling 25,000 lottery tickets at more than 1 pound each with prizes aggregating 20,000 pounds.<sup>25</sup> Later that same year Col. James Patton and others were murdered in Draper's Meadow by marauding Indians. The last Indian outrage in what is now Augusta County came in 1764 when John Trimble was murdered on his property on Middle River between Staunton and Churchville, probably by the same Indians who had just killed Alexander Crawford and his wife, Mary, at their farm near Buffalo Gap.<sup>26</sup> Throughout the colonial period and later, militia forces were raised in Augusta to protect the inhabitants whenever danger threatened. Thus, Augusta troops fought with distinction at Point Pleasant in 1774 and at King's Mountain, Cowpens, and Guilford Courthouse in the Revolution.

So much for the robust life of the early settlers. Augusta was then a center of colonizing activity as the pioneers either consolidated their landholdings and settled into the less glamorous and more sedate life of family farmers or continued the search for more extensive lands in the western regions. As western civilization moved into and beyond the Alleghany mountains new counties, territories, and states were carved from Augusta, beginning with the establishment of Botetourt County in 1770. Perhaps it could be claimed that the original western boundary was the California coast, pursuant to Robert Beverley's description. More realistically and accurately, we can claim that the County included, in addition to a western strip of Pennsylvania, all or part of the present states of West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, as indicated on the handsome granite marker dedicated earlier today in front of the courthouse.

Today, Augusta is still a large county by modern Virginia standards, containing 986 square miles, second only to Pittsylvania's 1,012 square miles.<sup>27</sup> It still includes a portion of the Blue Ridge on the east, a portion of

the Alleghanies on the west, and a portion of the Shenandoah Valley between the two mountain ranges. The Indian trails, the Great Wagon Road over which the pioneers came from Pennsylvania, and the road over the Blue Ridge have been replaced by primary and interstate highways. Indian outrages have been succeeded by highway fatalities as drivers speed into each other in automobiles, trailers, and trucks.

The trees in the county remain relatively untouched within the protective boundaries of a national park and national forests. There is no longer a bounty on wolves but the hunting of deer, bear, and grouse in the mountains continues, but only for sport rather than sustenance.

The County has changed from an exclusively agricultural economy that Thomas Jefferson so ardently espoused. There are still family farms, some operated by descendants of settlers who first planted the same land. Some of the same kinds of crops are raised today as 250 years ago but usually for the principal purpose of feeding the farmer's own livestock. Grist mills, so important in the early life of the County, have disappeared. Horses, once indispensable for transportation and farming, are still used but not for those purposes. Tobacco long ago ceased to be a commercial crop in the County. Whiskey is no longer legally distilled in this area once famous for the greatly admired medicinal qualities of such brands as Bumgardner, Fulcher, and Clemmer. The failure to reopen distilleries in the County after the largely unlamented death of Prohibition, however, has not caused any perceptible inconvenience to drinkers or any measurable reduction in their numbers. Only a few may feel that some superlative County spring water is being unnecessarily restricted to domestic consumption when it could be more widely appreciated if devoted to another purpose with a higher proof.

The gradual development of industry has given the County's economy a desirable balance. Without destroying the scenic beauty of the countryside industrial plants have not only provided employment but also have enabled many young men and women to remain in the County and combine limited farming operations with their industrial jobs.

In transportation and communications there have been the most profound changes from the earliest days of the County. For the first century transportation was either by foot or by horse. Then came the railroads to provide faster movement for passengers, freight and mail. Unfortunately, the passenger service of the railroads has declined far below what was available to residents of the County just 50 years ago. The automobile, the bus, the truck, and the airplane are now the popular means of transportation. And in an age when speed is often considered to be the only test of efficiency, the delivery of mail by whatever means of transportation reflects little if any improvement.

As for communications, the spoken, written or printed word continues to be important. The power of the press remains formidable. But inventions in the last century of the telephone and during my lifetime of the radio, television, and computer have revolutionized communications, politics, and

entertainment. We receive a message in minutes that would not have reached the pioneers for days, weeks, or months. We have the means to make instantaneous decisions of the most significant or frivolous nature. It is of course arguable that our decisions are no better and frequently are worse than those of our ancestors made in more deliberate and thoughtful fashion.

Nevertheless, speedy transportation and communications have brought us and other inhabitants of the so-called civilized world closer together while the brilliance of scientists has given us the ability to destroy that world in the blinking of an eye. Advancements in medicine enable us to live longer and in better health than previous generations and we accept with no apology and little appreciation the countless creature comforts made available to us by the ingenuity and mass production skills of modern manufacturing and industrial leaders.

The Augusta settlers would not have rejected indoor plumbing, central heating, or improved medical care, if available, but they might have suffered some nervous apprehension lest physical comfort undermine their pioneer spirit. Perhaps they would have compromised by accepting the material benefits only with the steadfast determination not to enjoy them under any circumstances.

The priorities of the early settlers were obvious. Their most important tasks were to build their cabins, clear their lands, and support and protect their families. After this, the Scotch-Irish were interested in religion, education, and politics. They built their schools as extensions of the church, because the first teachers were Presbyterian ministers.<sup>28</sup> They were influential in politics, taking control of the local governmental machinery in the absence of colonial officials living at ease in Williamsburg and in light of the language barrier restraining the Germans.

For their part, the early Germans, who were perhaps the best farmers on the frontier, were deeply interested in religion and education, but were not actively concerned with politics. The slow establishment of villages delayed the construction of the churches and schools, but instruction in the family circle preserved the German priorities until more formal facilities were provided.<sup>29</sup>

In the County today the same timeless qualities that guided the pioneers — courage, determination, self-reliance — are cherished by a majority of the inhabitants. The intensity of the commitment to the early priorities has undoubtedly weakened in the affluent society and the order of the priorities may have been rearranged. None can doubt, however, the dedication to religious freedom and to education. The County, with the two small cities it surrounds, must contain per capita more places of worship of more different denominations and faiths than any county in Virginia. The same area contains well organized and efficiently administered systems of public and private education, vocational as well as classical. Sound education is there for the taking. Any healthy child who fails to grasp the opportunity reflects personal laziness and parental irresponsibility.

As for politics, this has become more and more of a spectator sport nationally, as the high cost of projecting a favorable television image has severely limited the number of qualified participants. In this County, however, there are still responsible citizens who are willing to contribute their talents to the management of its affairs. With a modest tax rate the County provides reasonable services necessary for the welfare of the inhabitants — police and fire protection, water and sewer facilities. As a County taxpayer, I admire the efficient manner in which Augusta is being operated. Perhaps it is government in its mildest form that makes it so appealing.

Augusta has had a historic past; it has a successful present; and as more thoughtful people realize what it has to offer in quality of life I am confident that it will have a rewarding future. I hope that some of my descendants will be living here 250 years from this date to help celebrate, as we now do, the establishment of what we maintain is Virginia's greatest County.

### Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup>. Haynie, *The Stronghold* 37 (1959).
- <sup>2</sup>. Beverley, *The History and Present State of Virginia* 66 (rev. ed. 1971).
- <sup>3</sup>. Waddell, *Annals of Augusta County* 19 (2d ed. 1901), hereafter Waddell.
- <sup>4</sup>. Wust, *The Virginia Germans* 49 (1969), hereafter Wust.
- <sup>5</sup>. Wust 33.
- <sup>6</sup>. Waddell 22;  
Wust 29.
- <sup>7</sup>. Waddell 20.
- <sup>8</sup>. Waddell 28.
- <sup>9</sup>. Fisher, *The Family of John Lewis, Pioneer* 3 (rev. ed 1985), hereafter Fisher.
- <sup>10</sup>. Johnson, *William Preston and the Allegheny Patriots* 6, 8 (1976), hereafter Johnson.
- <sup>11</sup>. 5 Hening Statutes at Large 78, hereafter Hening.
- <sup>12</sup>. 5 Hening 487.
- <sup>13</sup>. Waddell 62.
- <sup>14</sup>. Waddell 13.
- <sup>15</sup>. Waddell 33-34.
- <sup>16</sup>. Waddell 35.
- <sup>17</sup>. Waddell 70.
- <sup>18</sup>. Fisher 6.
- <sup>19</sup>. Johnson 8.
- <sup>20</sup>. Waddell 58.
- <sup>21</sup>. Leyburn, *The Scotch-Irish: A Social History* 206, 234 (1962), hereafter Leyburn.
- <sup>22</sup>. Fisher 1;  
Wust 57.

- <sup>23</sup>. Fisher 2.
- <sup>24</sup>. 6 Hening 258.
- <sup>25</sup>. 6 Hening 453.
- <sup>26</sup>. Waddell 191, 193.
- <sup>27</sup>. 1987-88 Report of the Secretary of the Commonwealth 363, 402.
- <sup>28</sup>. Leyburn 319.
- <sup>29</sup>. Wust 55-56.



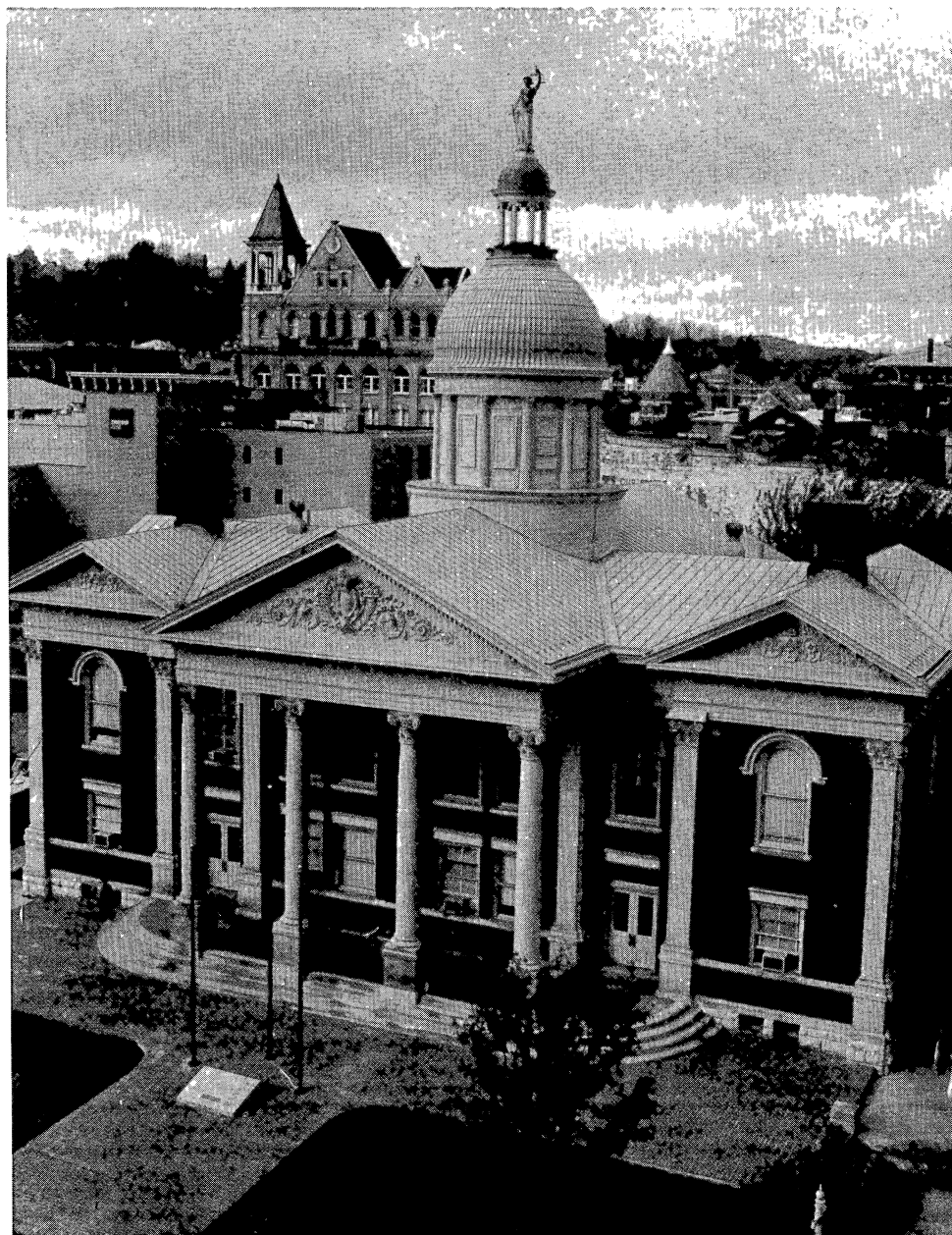


FIGURE NO. 5  
Present Courthouse

Photo by Vincent Lerz  
Published November 5, 1988 in *The Staunton Daily News Leader*.

## THE COURTHOUSES OF AUGUSTA COUNTY

By

Brenda L. Morris\*

Augusta County, presently encompassing 986 square miles at one time extended 240 miles along the Blue Ridge Mountains and westward toward the Mississippi River.<sup>1</sup> It included nearly all of West Virginia, the states of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and a part of western Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup> The county was formally carved out of Orange County by an act of the Virginia General Assembly, November 1, 1738, and received her name from Princess Augusta, wife of Frederick, Prince of Wales.<sup>3</sup> This act provided that the newly-formed county of Augusta and county of Frederick, which was established simultaneously, should remain a part of Orange County until it was determined that there were sufficient inhabitants for appointing justices, officers, and erecting courts therein.<sup>4</sup> Those with business to be transacted, such as "suit to prosecute and pleas to enter" had to take the long trip on horseback through the "gaps in the mountain and by bridle paths to Orange, spending several days on the way."<sup>5</sup> Full organization of Augusta County, which would allow the establishment of Courts to alleviate the long journeys to Orange, did not occur until October 30, 1745.<sup>6</sup>

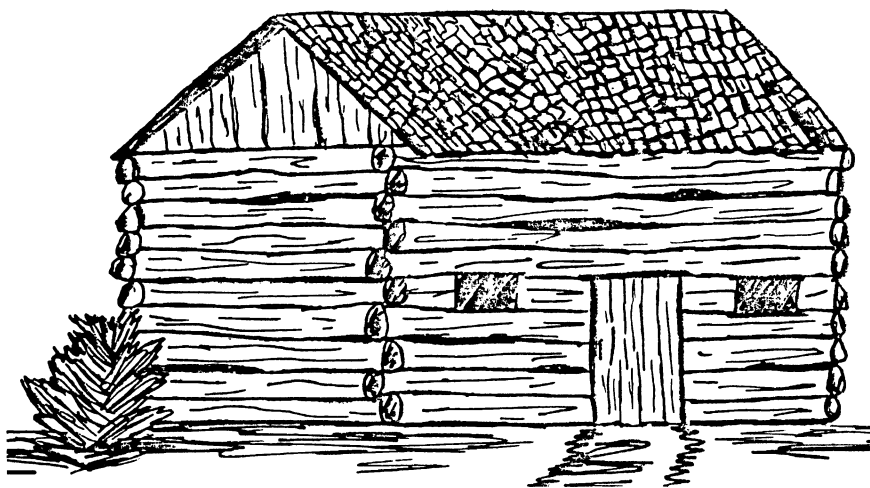
William Beverley, of Essex County, and others had received from the Colony of Virginia, a grant for 118,491 acres of land lying "in the County of Orange between the Great Mountains, on the river of Sherando."<sup>7</sup> A portion of this land grant is the present site of the City of Staunton and the succession of courthouses of Augusta County.

The first courthouse was a rough log structure described as follows in a presentment by the Grand Jury, May 21, 1748:

It was thirty-eight feet three inches long, and eighteen feet three inches wide in the clear, built with logs hewed on both sides, not layed close, some of the cracks between the logs quite open, four or five inches wide and four or five feet long, and some stopped with chunks and clay, but not quite close, two small holes cut for windows, but no glass or shutters to them; the inside not furnished nor fitting for his Majesty's Judicatory to sit.<sup>8</sup>

Figure 1 is a reconstruction based on extant evidence.

\*Senior Project, Mary Baldwin College, 1980; Brenda Morris is Deputy Corporation Clerk, City of Staunton, Virginia. Editing by Sue Echols Patterson



**FIGURE NO. 1**  
First Augusta County Courthouse  
1745-1788

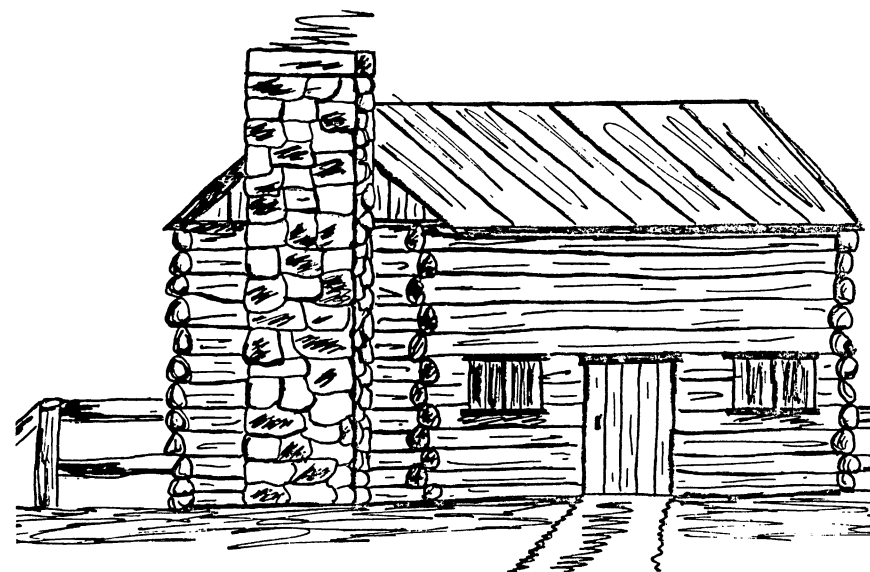
A committee was assembled to construct, in addition to the poorly built courthouse, a jail building nearby. It is described:

Twenty-two feet three inches long, and seventeen feet three inches wide, from outside to outside, built with square logs near one foot thick, holes at ye corners and elsewhere two or three inches wide, and so poorly dove-tailed at the corners that it would be a very easy matter to pull it all down.<sup>9</sup>

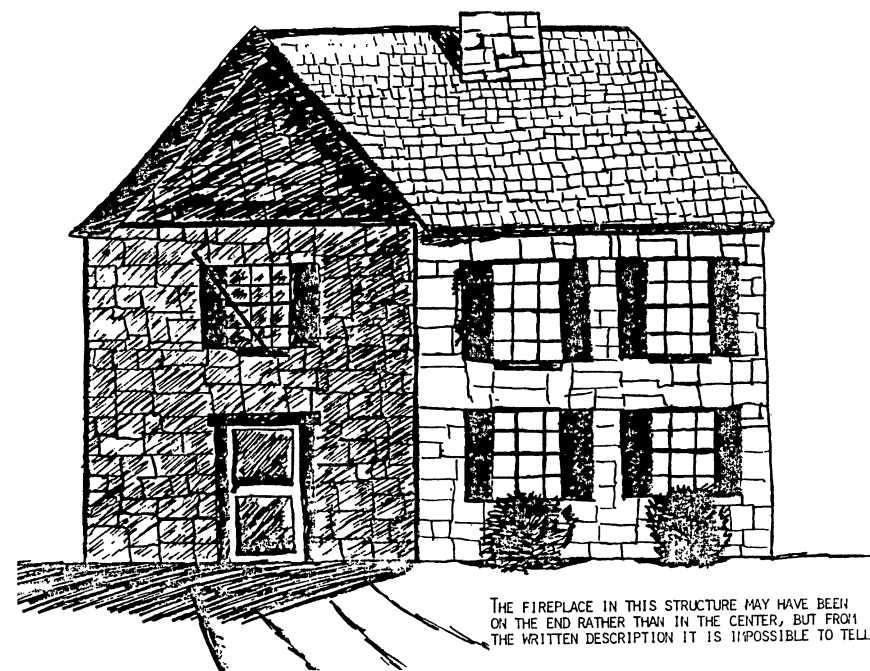
The original courthouse structure stood until 1788, however in 1755, upon completion of the second courthouse, it was fitted for a dwelling. Squire Robert McClenachan rented the house in 1763, and in 1771, his son-in-law, Alexander St. Clair, lived in it.<sup>10</sup> It had been divided into several rooms and hopefully a means of heat had been furnished, a floor laid, and the "holes cut for windows" had shutters.<sup>11</sup>

The second courthouse was also a log structure built near the former one. It was begun in 1752 but not completed until the summer of 1755.<sup>12</sup> Information is scant and there is no description of the building. It is presumed to have been more commodious than the first, by virtue of having a chimney and fire place.<sup>13</sup> Figure 2 represents a theoretical reconstruction of the second structure. Records are conflicting at this point as some make no mention of the second log structure.

The third courthouse was a stone structure two stories high. It was completed in the fall of 1789 and used until 1836. This structure was a square building near the middle of the lot, and entrances were on the north and south sides. The courtroom was on the first floor. The second story was divided into jury rooms and supported by wooden columns, one of which



**FIGURE NO. 2**  
Second Augusta County Courthouse  
1755



THE FIREPLACE IN THIS STRUCTURE MAY HAVE BEEN ON THE END RATHER THAN IN THE CENTER, BUT FROM THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL.

**FIGURE NO. 3**  
Third Augusta County Courthouse  
1789-1836

had attached iron clamps in which the hands of felons were fastened in order to brand them with hot irons. The Clerk's office was originally one of the upper rooms of the courthouse, but later occupied a one story brick house at the southwest corner of the lot.<sup>14</sup> See Figure 3 for a theoretical reconstruction. This structure was taken down to make room for the building which preceded the present structure.

The fourth courthouse was a winged brick structure with two stories. The wings housed the Clerk's Office, as well as other county offices.<sup>15</sup> There are no specific references to what offices were located in the fourth structure; however, based on contemporary usage, it was likely that the Treasurer, Commissioner of Revenue and perhaps Building Inspector were housed there. The second story contained the courtroom and most likely the judge's office. This brick building was first occupied in June of 1836 and was destroyed in 1900 to make way for the present structure.<sup>16</sup> Figure 4 is the fourth structure. These drawings reveal the grounds which were around the courthouse. Adding greatly to the appearance of the building were the tall trees and high fence.

The present courthouse building is a result of extensive remodeling of the fourth structure by Staunton's most famous and prolific architect, T. J. Collins.<sup>17</sup> Records conflict on this point as to whether the work done by



FIGURE NO. 4  
Fourth Courthouse

Collins was remodeling or construction of a new building. It is safe to state that the work done by Collins was quite extensive. The staff of Historic Staunton Foundation, local authorities on Collins' architecture, feel the remodeling work was sufficient to be called a new structure. (Editor's note: see Addendum by John B. Davis, Clerk of Augusta County.) The completion date of the fifth and present building is 1901.<sup>18</sup> The structure is two story and brick, with five bays. The roof is a complex gable. The front of the structure has a porch and two-story portico. Architectural characteristics are Beaux Arts and Neo-Classical Revival. There are no comparable buildings designed by Collins at the turn of the century. The Rockingham County Court House and the Marquis Building in downtown Staunton are Collins buildings which compare in size and function, but not in style.<sup>19</sup> Notable features are the central pedimented portico supported by composite yellow brick columns. The flanking wings have pilasters and the entablature on the building is heavily decorated.<sup>20</sup> There has been little change in the original design. In 1939, the rear porch was removed and an addition was constructed.

The building of five successive county courthouses in 1745, 1755, 1789, 1836 and 1901 reveals valuable information concerning local architecture and early lifestyles of the area; however, the greatest historical value to be derived from the study of the courthouses, comes not from the structures themselves, but from what lies within.

The most valuable possessions in the courthouse are the records which are housed there. Ancient, priceless treasures of American history, beginning prior to the American Revolution are stored and maintained by the Clerk of the Augusta County Circuit Court. The availability of these records to the public is the most valuable function in the community by the Augusta County Courthouse. Augusta County was the first settlement area for many of America's pioneers. Records of the ancestors of many families across the United States are stored in the courthouse. County records date back to 1745. The seven year gap between the creation of Augusta County in 1738 and the construction of the courthouse in 1745, resulted in documents dated prior to 1745 being recorded in Orange County.<sup>21</sup> Some of the more interesting books particularly helpful in geneological research are birth, death, marriage, will, deed, and land tax records.

Age and use are the enemies of these valuable documents. It is a never-ending task to maintain new records and restore old ones, but the worth of the results is priceless. Many of the old records in the courthouse have been restored. They include will books, marriage returns, court martial books, court order books, minute books, court of claims records, marriage bonds, court executive papers, ordinary bonds and land entry books.<sup>22</sup>

Much of the restoration of the county records has been undertaken by such organizations as the Virginia State Society, of DAR, the Col. Thomas Hughart and Beverley Manor chapters of the DAR, and the Augusta County Historical Society.<sup>23</sup> Record restoration is very expensive. The Augusta

County Board of Supervisors, realizing the worth of the restoration projects, has contributed funds in an effort to preserve the valuable records.

Augusta County's records are much more comprehensive than those of surrounding counties, according to Mrs. William Bushman, a local expert on the courthouse records. Augusta County's courthouses have not only escaped fire throughout the years, which has destroyed documents elsewhere, but also has complete birth and death records.<sup>24</sup>

One of the most interesting and valuable of all the old books contained in the courthouse is the Augusta Parish Vestry Book. The vestry book could be considered part of the civil government in the 18th century and related to the work of today's government departments such as Housing and Urban Development.

The records of Augusta County cover a wide scope and their contents are endless and irreplaceable. Written records are the key to the past and the historian's greatest tool. Much of the identity of every individual American would be lost, if not for the existence of written history such as the records of Augusta County.

The courthouse is valuable not only by virtue of the contents housed inside, but by the daily routine of law practice, which takes place in the courtroom and Clerk's office. Law touches at one time or another every citizen. From its log cabin beginnings, the Augusta County Court House has served the area citizenry in furnishing a place to exercise the judicial process. American law, its practice and procedure, is derived largely from English law. Much of the court procedure in use today came from early English courts.

Presently, the Circuit Court of Augusta County is part of the 25th Judicial Circuit and is served by three judges, appointed by the Supreme Court of Virginia. This circuit encompasses the cities of Buena Vista, Covington, Clifton Forge, and Staunton, and the counties of Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Botetourt, Craig, Highland and Rockbridge.<sup>25</sup>

Originally, the Augusta County Court system was served by justices. They received no pay, but after a period of time, the title of High Sheriff of the county was conferred on each in rotation.<sup>26</sup>

Until, 1789, the Augusta County Court was the only court of record, which sat in Staunton. It had an extensive jurisdiction in law and chancery.<sup>27</sup> In 1789, the legislature passed an act establishing district courts of law. Augusta, Rockbridge, Rockingham, and Pendleton constituted a district, and the court sat in Staunton.<sup>28</sup> The first jurists were Judge Mercer and Judge Parker. The first Clerk of the District Court at Staunton was James Lyle.<sup>29</sup> In 1809, circuit courts of law, instead of district courts, were established by an act of the assembly. Judge Stuart became sole judge of the circuit of which Augusta was a part.<sup>30</sup>

The courthouses of Augusta County have given symbolic as well as real importance, dignity and prestige to the county and its citizens. The buildings themselves are valuable, as well as the services which are rendered,

and the art objects and records that are housed within. Every citizen of Augusta County is affected by its presence.

#### Footnotes:

1. George M. Mays, "Augusta-Blue Ridge to Shining Sea", *The Staunton Leader*, Area Bicentennial Ed., July 2, 1976, p. 2.

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*

4. *Ibid.*

5. *Ibid.*

6. *Ibid.*

7. Mays, "Augusta-Blue Ridge to Shining Sea", *Ibid.*, p. 2.

8. Waddell, Jos. A., *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, from 1726 to 1871*, (e.g. 2nd Ed.); Harrisonburg, Virginia: C. J. Carrier Company, 1902), page 52.

9. *Ibid.*, pp. 53-54.

10. *Ibid.*, page 118.

11. *Ibid.*

12. *Ibid.*

13. *Ibid.*

14. *Ibid.*, page 339.

15. *Ibid.*, page 534-535.

16. *Ibid.*

17. Historic Staunton Foundation, Inventory Sheet, Augusta County Court House.

18. *Ibid.*

19. Statement by William Frazier, Director of Historic Staunton Foundation, Staunton, Virginia, April, 1980.

20. Historic Staunton Foundation, Inventory Sheet, Augusta County Court House

21. George M. Mays, "Courthouse records wide scope," *The Staunton Leader*, Area Bicentennial Ed., July 2, 1976, p. 6

22. Mays, "Courthouse records wide scope", *Ibid.*, p. 6.

23. *Ibid.*

24. Mays, "Courthouse records wide scope." Statement by Mrs. William Bushman.

25. Code of Virginia, 1950 Amend., Vol 4, Sec. 17-119.1:1.

26. Waddell, p. 53.

27. *Ibid.*, p. 375.

28. *Ibid.*

29. *Ibid.*

30. *Ibid.*

## Addenda

1) "By the fall of 1900, the county had again outgrown the courthouse. The board of supervisors decided to remodel and enlarge the existing building. In fact, a contract was signed with the A. F. Withrow & Co., to do the work. However, public sentiment did not agree with the board's decision. Due to the concerns of the "voters and citizens" of the county, the board of supervisors reversed its decision of a month earlier and entered into a revised contract to build an entirely new courthouse and place it near the middle of the courthouse square. This contract called for a completed price of \$35,200. Included in the price was the covering up of the old brick sidewalks around the courthouse with modern granolithis (concrete).

This fifth and present courthouse has been in continuous use since its acceptance and dedication on November 9, 1901. On several occasions alterations and minor additions have been made to the building. This courthouse has witnessed the tremendous growth of the 20th century. At one time, all county offices, except the sheriff and jail, were housed in the courthouse, which was the center of the county government. Today, we have come full circle and now only the court and the county clerk's office remain in the courthouse."

(Abstracted from the article in the Commemorative Issue, Augusta County, published by the *Staunton Daily News Leader*, November 5, 1988, page 25, by John B. Davis, Clerk of Augusta County, Virginia)

2) A visit to the Augusta County Courthouse is not complete without viewing the handsome newly redecorated Circuit Courtroom on the second floor. The rich burgundy of the walls sets off the 30 portraits of the circuit judges, lawyers prominent in the area, and the portrait of Chief Justice John Marshall of the United States Supreme Court. A tour of the room should begin with the east wall beginning at the rear door and going forward toward the bench.

Hugh W. Sheffey, 1815-1899

Circuit Judge, 1866-1869

Speaker of Virginia House of Delegates

David Fultz, 1802-1886

Circuit Judge, March 1869-April 1870

John N. Hendren, 1822-1898

County Court Judge

S. Houston Letcher, 1848-1914

Circuit Judge, 1898-1912

J. M. Quarles, 1848-1929

County Court Judge

William McLaughlin, 1828, 1898

Circuit Judge, 1870-1898

Joseph A. Glasgow, 1867-1940

Circuit Judge, 1928-1942

Floridus Crosby, 1893-1957

Circuit Judge, 1942-1955

William S. Moffett, Jr.

Circuit Judge, 1955-1984

Hugh H. Kerr

1873-1932

Armistead C. Gordon

1855-1931

(beyond the jury room door)

John W. Churchman

1857-1909

A. Caperton Braxton

1862-1914

On the south wall behind the judge's bench

John Marshall\*

Chief Justice, United States Supreme Court

\*Portrait by Robert Sully—further information in article by Andrew Oliver, "Robert M. Sully's Portraits of John Marshall", *Augusta Historical Bulletin*, Volume 12, Fall, 1976, #2, page 19.

Continuing to the west wall and again beginning at the rear of the courtroom, you find

John H. Peyton

1778-1847

Thomas J. Michie

1795-1873

Alexander H. H. Stuart

1807-1891

John B. Baldwin

1820-1873

Speaker, Virginia House of Delegates

John Echols

1823-1896

John Echols

1823-1896

Henderson M. Bell

1826-1899

Robert L. Parrish  
1840-1904

Richard Henry Catlett  
1829-1898

George M. Cochran  
1832-1900

Marshall Hanger  
1833-1912  
Speaker, Virginia House of Delegates

(Behind the jury box)

Thomas C. Elder  
1834-1904

James Bumgardner, Jr.  
1835-1917

Meade F. White  
1847-1898

Richard P. Bell  
1853-1904

Edward Echols  
1849-1914

The north wall of the courtroom has the portrait of Henry Winston Holt, Circuit Judge 1912-1928; appointed Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court in 1928.



Photo by Rick Chittum

## AUGUSTA COUNTY CELEBRATES 250th ANNIVERSARY

By

Richard Miller

The Augusta County Courthouse lawn was filled with people attending the county's 250th anniversary celebration Wednesday that featured speeches, flag raisings and the dedication of a stone map showing the county's original borders to the Mississippi River.

"You have much to be proud of in your heritage as citizens of Augusta County," former U.S. Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr. told the hundreds of people standing in the warm November sunshine as he presented a U.S. flag flown over the Nation's Capitol to commemorate the county's birthday.

Augusta County, "the mother of counties," was formed in November 1738 and stretched as far west as the Mississippi River and included a portion of what is now Wisconsin. The entire state of Kentucky was once part of the county, which also gave birth to 22 Virginia counties, and it is still the second largest county by area in the state. The county was settled largely by the Scotch-Irish and Germans coming from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware, whose staunch conservative values are still prevalent in residents today.

For county officials and residents, Wednesday was a day to celebrate their heritage with speeches by Byrd and State Supreme Court Chief Justice Harry L. Carrico. In addition to the map dedication, there was also the unveiling of the county's first flag which was hoisted atop its own pole beside the U.S. flag presented by Byrd and a state flag presented by Carrico.

Dignitaries invited to the celebration included Byrd, Carrico, former State Supreme Court Justice George M. Cochran, former Augusta Circuit Judge William S. Moffett Jr. and presiding Circuit Judge Thomas H. Wood. Members of the county Board of Supervisors were also on hand as were representatives from Staunton and Waynesboro.

Cochran's wife, Lee Cochran, who was a driving force behind the committees organizing the placement of the map and accompanying celebration, said the committees worked with four different chairmen of the supervisors to plan the event.

County Circuit Court Clerk John B. Davis and others attending the ceremony speculated that the last time as many people gathered on the courthouse lawn was for the last hanging which actually took place across the street in 1901.

Reprinted with permission of *Staunton Daily News Leader*, Thursday, November 10, 1988



A chorus of county music teachers sang a medley of songs including "America," "Oh Shenandoah," and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," and the Stonewall Brigade Band played "Dixie" as the flags of Augusta County and Virginia were raised over the newly bricked sidewalk in front of the romanesque-style courthouse.

The Augusta County flag, which features the county seal on a green field, was designed as a composite of three contest entries submitted by county school students. The supervisors asked the students to submit drawings of a county flag and were inundated with more than 600 entries. The three winners — seventh graders Sheranda Bosserman and Martha Buchanan of Beverley Manor Elementary School and Jessica Horn of Churchville Elementary School — attended the ceremony and watched as their flag was raised.

As the honor guard from the headquarters First Brigade, 29th Infantry (Light) finished saluting the county flag, a gentle breeze unfurled the three flags to the applause of those attending the celebration.

The flag flown Wednesday was made by home economics teachers and students at Buffalo Gap High School.

Celebration Planning Committee

Harry L. Nash III, Chairman

Justice George M. Cochran

Judge William S. Moffett, Jr.

Judge Thomas H. Wood

A. R. Hull

John B. Davis

Mrs. George M. Cochran

Earl W. Bosserman, Jr.

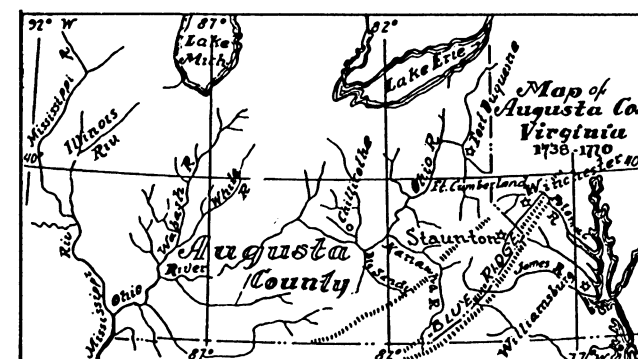
Mrs. William Bushman

Charles R. Chittum

Steve Wittenberg

## HISTORIC MAP PRESENTED TO AUGUSTA COUNTY

A highlight of the 250th anniversary celebration on November 9, 1988, was the presentation of the 2½ ton granite marker purchased with the contributions of 162 persons and 35 organizations of Augusta County. It was presented to the Hon. Jerry L. May, Chairman of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, by Harry L. Nash III, chairman of the Historic Map Committee. Members of the committee were Mrs. P. William Moore, Jr., Co-chairman; Mrs. William S. Moffett, Jr., Treasurer; Judge Thomas H. Wood, Mrs. George M. Cochran, Mrs. E. Theodore Webb, John S. Hale, Edgar R. Coiner, John B. Davis, C. Gordon Patterson, David J. Brown, Mrs. Geri S. Lowe.



JED HOTCHKISS

The granite marker depicts Augusta County as it was in 1738, in a map drawn by Jed Hotchkiss, the noted 19th century cartographer of Augusta County and Staunton. The bronze plaque on the marker contains information about Augusta County and is flanked by the seals of the Commonwealth of Virginia and Augusta County. The marker was created by A. P. Grapponi and Sons, Inc., of Richmond, Virginia.

It is placed in the newly bricked plaza in front of the portico of the courthouse, with the 3 new flag poles forming a backdrop.

The contributors to the historic map are as follows:

Mr. & Mrs. Carter R. Allen  
Arbor Hill Extension Homemakers Club  
Mrs. T. W. Atkinson  
Augusta Garden Club  
Augusta County Historical Society  
Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Barnhart  
Mrs. Richard P. Bell, Jr.  
Beverley Garden Club  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles P. Blackley  
Mr. & Mrs. Deward C. Brackman  
Miss E. Virginia Brooks

Miss Anne Barron Carroll  
Mrs. Charles R. Carter  
Dr. & Mrs. Samuel H. Carter  
Mr. Richard H. Catlett  
Mr. & Mrs. L. B. Chittum  
Cosmopolitan Club  
Country Gardeners, Augusta County  
Miss Frances Crawford  
Crestar Bank  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Toms Dalton  
Mr. & Mrs. John B. Davis

Mr. & Mrs. J. Madison Brown  
Churchville Ruritan Club  
Clifton Forge-Waynesboro  
Telephone Company  
Staunton Coca-Cola Plant  
Justice & Mrs. George M. Cochran  
Mr. Charles A. Coffman  
Mr. Ralph S. Coffman  
Mr. Joseph W. Cohron  
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar R. Coiner  
College Park Garden Club  
Cook Land Company  
Miss Carrie Cooke  
Miss Rose Cooke  
Mrs. Leland C. Brown  
Judge & Mrs. Rudolph Bumgardner, III  
Mr. & Mrs. William Bushman  
C & P Telephone Company  
The Rev. & Mrs. Clifford D. Caldwell  
Mrs. J. Waller Callison  
Mr. Royster Lyle, Jr.  
Miss Mary McKim McCue  
Miss Sarah W. McCue  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. McLelland  
Dr. & Mrs. Daniel B. McMillan  
Dr. Patricia H. Menk  
Middlebrook Ruritan Club  
Mr. & Mrs. Horace B. Mills  
Judge & Mrs. William S. Moffett, Jr.  
Hershey Chocolate Company  
Mrs. Harry D. Hevener  
Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Hildebrand  
Mrs. John M. Hinch  
Mrs. Jean T. Hoffman  
Mrs. Thomas D. Howie  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Huff  
Miss Martha Dabney Jones  
Mrs. Anne C. Kidd  
Mrs. Adele G. Kiessling  
Mrs. Frank K. Kirtley  
Mrs. W. J. Perry  
Mrs. James Pettis  
Miss Elizabeth F. Moody  
Mr. & Mrs. P. William Moore, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Morgan  
Mr. & Mrs. James S. Morrison  
Mrs. Joseph Nutt, Jr.  
Mr. C. Ray Obaugh  
Mr. & Mrs. Hierome L. Opie, Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. W. G. Painter  
Col. & Mrs. Frank R. Pancake  
Dr. & Mrs. James B. Patrick  
Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Paxton  
Stuarts Draft High School FHA  
Mr. & Mrs. Colin J. S. Thomas, Jr.  
Planters Bank & Trust Company  
Mrs. James W. Ramsey  
Dr. & Mrs. P. B. Richardson  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Robertson  
Mrs. H. B. Roller

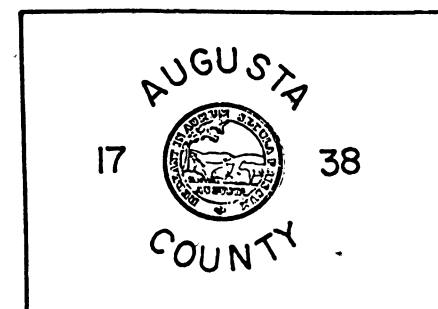
Mr. James R. Echols  
Hon. & Mrs. Felix E. Edmunds  
Mr. & Mrs. Fitzhugh Elder, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Gray Ferguson  
First American Bank  
Fort Defiance High School FFA  
Capt. & Mrs. R. E. Foster  
Mr. & Mrs. William T. Frazier  
Mrs. B. C. Goodloe  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph B. Graham  
Dr. & Mrs. Sam D. Graham  
Green Hills Garden Club, Raphine  
Dr. & Mrs. John H. Guss  
Hamrick & Company, Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Hamrick, Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. Hobart G. Hansen  
Mrs. Sam C. Heatwole  
Knopp Enterprises, Inc.  
Lady Staunton Garden Club  
Mr. John S. Loving  
Mrs. George S. Rosenberger  
Mr. Paul D. Ross  
Mr. & Mrs. P. W. Rowe  
Rev. & Mrs. Albert J. Schrader  
Scott & Stringfellow, Inc.  
Dr. & Mrs. Randolph T. Shields  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Sills, III  
Mrs. J. Hansford Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Owen Thomas, III  
Three Ridge Garden Club  
Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Timberlake, Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. O. Ashton Trice  
Tuesday Club of Augusta County  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H. Tullidge  
Vellines, Cobbs, Goodwin & Glass  
Mrs. E. Theodore Webb  
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Webster  
Mr. & Mrs. A. Taylor Weller  
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Wetzel  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. Smith  
Col. & Mrs. Robert G. Smith  
Sovran Bank Financial Institution  
Spottswood Extension Homemakers  
Mrs. William W. Sproul, Jr.  
Mr. Philip L. Stanley  
The Statler Brothers  
Staunton-Augusta County  
Board of Realtors  
Staunton Insurance Agency, Inc.  
Weyers Cave Extension Homemakers  
Mrs. Nancy H. Whitmore  
Mrs. Jean Wilkins  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Williams, Jr.  
Mrs. Howard Mc. Wilson  
J. B. Wine & Company  
Judge & Mrs. Thomas H. Wood  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey B. Young  
Augusta County Schools—  
Calendar Project

## THE NEW AUGUSTA COUNTY FLAG

Among the activities preparatory to the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the creation of Augusta County in 1738, was the contest conducted in the schools of Augusta County for a new county flag design.

Before November 9, 1988, some 600 designs were submitted by the students in Augusta County schools. The prize winning design was a composite of 3 entries submitted by Sheranda Bosserman and Martha Buchanan, 7th grade students at Beverley Manor Elementary School, and Jessica Horn of Churchville Elementary School. Each girl was awarded a \$50 U. S. Government Savings Bond.

Shown here, the new flag features the seal of Augusta County on a field of Kelly Green, and the lettering on the field in Gold.



Records in Augusta County and the *Staunton Spectator* (a newspaper of the 19th century), provide us with the knowledge that on 28 December 1846, the County Court appropriated \$150 for the creation of a county flag to be carried by the "sons of Augusta" who were shortly leaving for the Mexican War.<sup>1</sup> In a letter to the editor, dated 7 January 1847, Captain Kenton Harper reported the presentation to the company of Augusta Volunteers by Judge Briscoe G. Baldwin at the Powhatan House in Richmond, Virginia.<sup>2</sup>

As reported, the flag design had on one side "our national emblem, the Eagle, with the words "E Pluribus Unum"—on the other, the Virginia Coat of Arms, with its appropriate and glorious motto: "Sic Semper Tyrannis!"<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately for us, the color of the field was not reported, nor was it stated who made the flag, or where. The dates of the court order and the date of the presentation indicate that it was made very quickly.

On the 12 January 1847, Captain Kenton Harper, commander of the Augusta Volunteers, was also presented a sword by the citizens of Augusta County. Presentation of the sword was made by Hugh W. Sheffey.<sup>4</sup>

The Augusta Volunteers were a part of the First Battalion, 1st Regiment Virginia Volunteers, and were a part of the group which departed for war from Fort Monroe. They returned to Staunton the first week



in August, 1848, after nearly 20 months of service. An account of their return home was published on Wednesday, August 9, 1848.<sup>5</sup> There was no mention of the flag given to them in 1847. Does it still exist? Is there a record of an earlier county flag of Augusta County other than the 1847 flag? Answers to these two questions would be welcomed, should anyone have the knowledge.



Augusta County School students Sheranda Bosserman (front), Martha Buchanan (center) and Jessica Horn hand an honor guardsman from the First Brigade, 29th Infantry Division (Light) a county flag which they helped design for raising at Wednesday's courthouse lawn celebration of Augusta County's 250th anniversary. Hundreds of people filled the County Courthouse lawn for the celebration which featured speeches and the dedication of the stone map showing the county's original borders to the Mississippi River. (Photo by Dennis Sutton)  
*Staunton Daily News Leader*, November 10, 1988

# **Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> Augusta County Court Order Book 50, page 548, 28 December 1846

<sup>2</sup> *Staunton Spectator*, Thursday, January 14, 1847, page 2

<sup>3</sup> *The Richmond Whig*, 8 January 1847, published in the *Staunton Spectator*, January 14, 1847

<sup>4</sup> From the *Richmond Republican*, 12 January 1847, reported in the *Staunton Spectator*, 21 January 1847.

<sup>5</sup> *Staunton Spectator*, August 9, 1848.

## THE SEAL OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

An intriguing mystery in the history of Augusta County poses two questions: Who created the seal? Where was it made? To date, research has failed to find the answers to both questions.

Records in the court order book and the minute book of the period, show when the County Court ordered the Clerk to procure a seal. We do not know when it arrived, or when it was first used on official documents. On 26 November 1753, the justices of the county court ordered the clerk to send for a "proper seal." The minute book of the same date states "the Clerk of this county send for a Proper seal for the use of this county..screw wafers..and being in his charge at Laying of the Cy Levy."<sup>1</sup> Since the levy was made each November, he had 12 months in which to order and receive it.

The Public Record Office in London, England, has nothing indexed for a seal of Augusta County. In the 1750s there were few individuals in Virginia capable of designing and making such seals.<sup>2</sup> Inquiries to other possible sources of information in Pennsylvania has produced no records.

Because the seal is used on official documents going out of the Clerk's office, the editor has attempted to locate old documents bearing the seal. To date, two have been located. One is an original certificate of freedom carried by a free black, and is dated 1851. (See Figure 2.) It is exactly as the seal used today. The other document is dated 1784, and is a copy of an execution, signed on 30 June 1784 by Richard Madison, Clerk of Augusta County. (See Figure 3.) It is held in the George W. Manley Collection, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. A copy of it was obtained from Christina Bolgiano, Librarian for special collections. Because it did not copy well, Ms. Bolgiano included a description of the seal: 1½ inches across, with letters around the outer band beginning at 12:00 (the top) "Redeant In Aurum Secula Priscum." The pastoral scene is the same as today with the word "Augusta" beneath it. In comparing the seal used in 1851 (same as 1989), it will be noted that the inscription begins at 7:00 (lower left), rather than 12:00. This difference poses another question: When was the placement of the inscription changed between 1784 and 1851? It will also be noted that sealing wax was used in the 18th century to imprint—by 1851, the clerk's office was embossing with a paper seal on the document.

Jos. A. Waddell, in the preface to the 1871 edition of *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia*, made the following statement about the seal of Augusta County:

A representation of the seal of the County Court of Augusta, commonly called the County Seal, is given on the title page. When and by whom the seal was designed is not known. Possibly it was by a member of the faculty of William



Figure 1

and Mary College, at the request of one of our colonial governors, who were required by law to provide seals for courts.

The motto is an accommodation of a passage in Horace, Book IV, Ode 2. This Ode expresses delight in the peace and prosperity which came after the long civil wars of Rome. Referring to Augustus, the poet says the heavenly powers ne'er gave the earth a nobler son—

*"Nor e'er will give, though backward time should run  
To its first golden hours."*

The Latin words are: *Nec debunt quamvis redeant in aurum Tempora priscum.*

The motto may be translated thus: "Let the ages return to the first golden period." The allusion is, of course, to the fabulous "Golden Age" of primal simplicity and enjoyment; and the Roman poets held out the hope that this happy state of things would one day return.

It would seem that the seal was devised during the fearful Indian wars, when every one was longing for the safety and rest of former times. Full of such aspirations, the designer, in addition to the motto, delineated in the centre of the seal a tranquil pastoral scene, as emblematic of the wished-for times. Such a scene would not ordinarily have been depicted in a time of peace, but during, or immediately after, the havoc of war. In peace, the minds of men gloat over the achievements of war, and in war they dwell upon "the piping times of peace."

The name of the county, however, was suggestive of the motto and emblem, as the poet Virgil celebrated the Emperor Augustus as

"Restorer of the age of gold."

J. A. W.

*Staunton, November 1, 1886.*

A search of the court order books for 1753-1754-1755 has not revealed any reference as to the delivery of a new county seal to the clerk. So we are still in a state of ignorance as to who created the seal, where it was made, as well as when it was first used by the Clerk of Augusta County, Virginia, John Madison.

#### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Augusta County Order Book 4, page 105, 26 November 1753

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Louis R. Manarin, State Archivist of Virginia, 26 November 1984

<sup>3</sup> Waddell, Jos. A., *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia*, 2nd Edition, 1902, pp. vii-viii

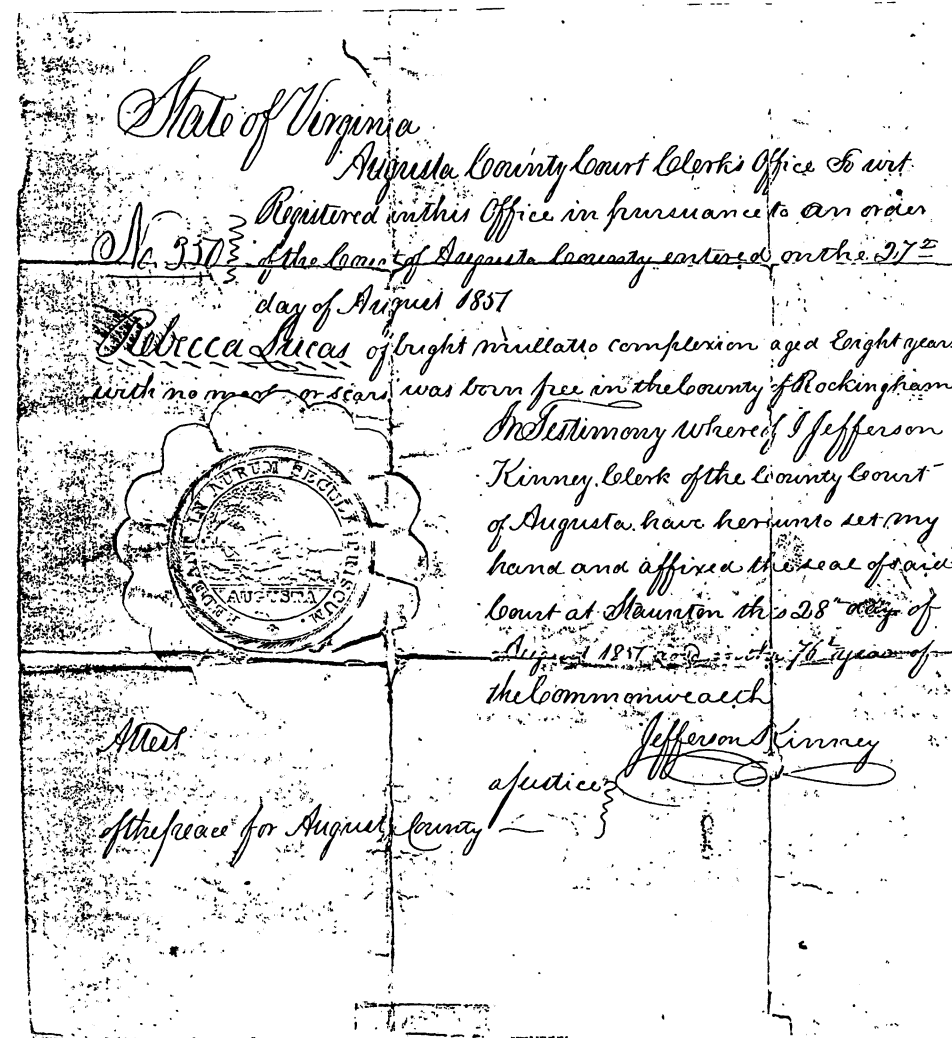


Figure 2

Copied By  
Anne Covington Kidd  
[Continued from Volume 24, Number 2]

Anne Covington Kidd

[Continued from Volume 24, Number 2]

Lucy Henry AST, daughter of John H. Ast, departed this life, Oct. 25th  
... aged 18 years and 7 days. [SS 8 December 1868]

Near Bethelam church, on the 21st ultimo, John William [BAILY], infant son of George F. A. and Mary Bailey—aged 8 months and 13 days. [SS 11 February 1868]

In Staunton ... 13th instant, at the residence of his father-in-law—Mr. George A. Armentrout—Mr. George M. BAKER, in the 28th year of his age .... member of the Episcopal church .... In the Fall of 1866, he removed to Waco, Texas, where he expected to reside, and remained there eight months. His health failing him, he returned to his relatives and friends in Staunton .... he leaves a wife, one small child. [SS 21 July 1868]

On the 21st of April ... at the residence of his son, C. C. Baldwin, Esq., near Balcony Falls, in Rockbridge ... Capt. Joseph C. BALDWIN, aged nearly ninety years .... About sixty years ago, he established at Friendly Grove, one mile south of Winchester, and at Front Royal, the first Woolen and Cotton Factories erected in the Valley of Virginia. At the close of the war of 1812 he removed to Winchester, having previously married there a daughter of ... Dr. Cornelius Baldwin ... was a Director of the Farmer's Bank, a vestry-man in the Episcopal Church .... Among his friends ... were Gen. Singleton, Judge White, Judge Holmes and ... Bishop Meade .... he removed to Staunton, and from there to Lynchburg .... During the last five years, he made his home with his son in Rockbridge .... young looking man for his age ... fresh, ruddy complexion, smooth, oval face, cheerful countenance, and full suit of iron-gray hair .... premature deaths of two ... sons ... Col. Cyrus B. Baldwin, of Houston, Miss., who died in the Confederate army ... and Judge Joe. G. Baldwin, of San Francisco, California .... two of the five adult children—the eldest and youngest—now survive. He had survived all his brothers and sisters many years, though the eldest of them all .... his great grand-father ... attained ... 100 years .... buried ... in the Cemetery, at Staunton. [VV 29 April 1868]

Mrs. Mary A. BARE died in Staunton, the 13th of May ... in the 57th year of her age. [SS 4 Augusta 1868]



On the 18th inst. in this place, Porterfield Kinney [BELL], infant son of Maj. H. M. Bell, aged 5 months and 20 days. [SS 29 September 1868]

On the 7th instant, near Waynesboro ... Mrs. Susan T. BERRY, wife of David Berry, aged 49 years, 4 months and 19 days. [SS 19 May 1868]

At the residence of her brother, David Blackwood, Esq., near Greenville ... Oct. 13th, Miss Maria BLACKWOOD .... member of the Presbyterian church. [SS 10 November 1868]

... 3rd inst., Mrs. Martha R. BLEDSOE, wife of Thomas A. Bledsoe, of this place, aged 32 years. [SV 10 January 1868]

In Staunton, October 17th ... Emma C. [BOOZ] ... wife of J. W. Booz, and daughter of C. D. McGhee of Bedford County ... in the 24th year of her age .... member of the Presbyterian church [SS 20 October 1868] ... October 19 .... [leaves] two helpless babes. [VV 21 October 1868]

... Alexander St. Clair BOYS ... died in Hillsboro, Ohio, on the 25th ult. .... native of Staunton, and son of the late Dr. William Boys .... born in ... 1817 ... was fifty-one .... never married .... after completing his legal studies, he located in Chillicothe, Ohio. [SS 15 September 1868]

A young son [\_\_\_\_\_] BRANNON] of Mr. John Brannon, about 7 years old, whilst fishing in the Creek in sight of his father's house fell ... and was drowned. [VV 10 June 1868]

Died ... on the 26th of May, 1867, at the residence of her son-in-law, near Churchville ... Mrs. Susan BREWER, in her 52nd year of her age .... adorned the Christian life ... in connection with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Her only child, Mrs. Wilson, desiring to have her funeral obsequies performed by a minister of her mother's choice, deferred the matter until this could be effected ... 29th of March 1868 .... Mrs. Brewer was originally from Maryland. [SS 7 April 1868]

(From the Southern Christian Advocate.) Mrs. Mary BROWN, wife of Judge S. B. Brown, died in Fort Valley, August 16th .... member of the Presbyterian Church .... was a resident of Staunton, and her home was in her native State, until the removal of her family to Georgia .... sons .... and .... daughters. [SV 16 October 1868]

On the 9th of August, near Greenville, William BROWNEE ... in the 30th year of his age. [SS 1 September 1868]

... August 15th, Lewis Johnson [BRUCE], infant son of A. M. and Mary Bruce, aged nine months. [SS 25 August 1868]

On June 6th, near Moscow, Augusta county, Miss Elizabeth CARSON, in the 46th year of her age. [SS 23 June 1868]

On Friday evening last ... Miss Julia J. CEASE, of this place, in the 18th year of her age. [SS 28 April 1868]

On the 8th instant, at the Virginia Hotel ... Mrs. Lucy J. CLARKE, consort of Rev. John L. Clarke, pastor of the Southern Methodist Church of this place—aged 36 years and 6 months. [SS 14 January 1868] Bishop Doggett, of the M. E. Church, South, will preach the funeral sermon ... in the Methodist church, in this place, next Sunday morning. [SS 28 January 1868]

.... in the 37th year of her age .... was born and reared in this town .... the only daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Stevens, formerly of Harrisonburg. [SS 28 January 1868] .... on Friday her remains were conveyed to Harrisonburg for interment among her relatives. [VV 15 January 1868]

... 14th of Nov. ... near Deerfield, Augusta county ... Mrs. Nancy [CLAYTON], wife of Wm. Clayton, Esq., in the 61st year of her age .... member of the Presbyterian church .... the untiring nurse ... around the bed of her aged and afflicted husband, who for at least six years had relied upon her. [SS 24 November 1868]

In Staunton ... the 19th inst., Mr. Geo. H. CONKLIN, aged 57 years and 7 months. [SS 20 October 1868] .... native of another state. [SS 24 November 1868]

... on last Friday night, George [COVELL], aged 5 years, only son of Prof. J. C. Covell, of the D and D and Blind Institution. [SS 8 December 1868] At a regular meeting of the Fire Association of the Va. Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind, held in the Chapel of the Institution, Dec. 9th ... Prof. McCoy in the chair ... a Committee was appointed to draft resolutions .... J. McClellan, W. M. F. McQuain, L. W. Saunders, Wm. F. Cabaniss, J. W. Garland .... Wm. C. Geiger, Sec. pro tem [SS 15 December 1868]

At her residence near Deerfield, on ... 1st instant, Mrs. Jane G. CRAWFORD, in the 73rd year of her age. [SS 14 January 1868]

Died near Spring Hill, on Sunday morning, Mr. Richard CROSBY .... about 47. He leaves four orphan children. [SS 17 March 1868]

Died, on Feb. 28th ... Mrs. Sarah CULLEN, wife of G. G. Cullen, aged 62 years, 11 months, and eleven days .... united herself with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. [SS 10 March 1868]

At his residence, near Waynesboro ... the 12th inst., Braxton DAVIS, in the 74th year of his age. [SS 20 October 1868]

On the 15th inst., at his residence in this county, Jacob DULL, Esq., aged 58 years. [VV 24 June 1868]

... April 7th ... at Elizabeth Furnace, Augusta county ... Regina V. DUNLOP, infant daughter of Robert B. and Salome F. Dunlop, aged 4 months and 14 days. [SS 28 April 1868]

... Oct. 23rd ... at Elizabeth Furnace, Augusta county, Willie R. DUNLOP, son of Robert B. and Salome F. Dunlop, aged 2 years, 7 months and 28 days. [SS 8 December 1868]

In Canton, Lewis co., Missouri, William EAGON, Esq., a native of Staunton ... aged 56 years. [SS 30 June 1868] On the 8th inst. [VV 24 June 1868]

... Nov. 30th ... at the residence of her father in Staunton ... Mary Caperton [ECHOLS], infant daughter of Gen. John Echols. [SS 1 December 1868]

Died at the residence of Col. David S. Bell, in Augusta county ... \_\_\_\_\_ July ... Mrs. Sarah ELDRIDGE, in the 85th year of her age .... was of Scotch-Irish parentage, born in Augusta county .... lost her husband early in

life ... [had an] only child. [SS 18 August 1868]

August 2d, in Botetourt county ... Carrie [ENGLE], infant daughter of Rev. J. J. and Mrs. Mary Engle, of New Hope, Augusta. [SS 1 September 1868]

We ... record the death of Daniel FORRER, of Mossy Creek, Augusta county, who expired at his residence, in the bosom of his family, on ... January 2 .... in the 67th year of his age .... He had been, originally, a ... Union man, but when ... the South was overrun, no man was more firm ... to the cause of his section .... The loss of his wife, a little over a year ago, had cast a dark shadow upon his existence .... leaves six children .... His remains rest alongside those of his wife, in the graveyard at Beaver Creek Church .... Register. [SS 14 January 1868]

On the 18th instant, at the residence of her nephew, Wilson Gabbert, near Arbor Hill, Augusta county, Miss Sallie GABBERT, aged 104 years. [SS 27 October 1868]

On ... 26th ult., near Hebron Church, in this county, Matthias GAYHART, in the 84th year of his age. [SS 9 June 1868]

On ... 5th instant ... little son of Henry Geeding, Esq., residing near Churchville. [SS 11 February 1868] On the 8th of February ... Willie Henry [GEEDING] ... aged four years and eleven months. [SS 18 February 1868]

At the residence of Sam'l Paul, Esq., Mrs. Elizabeth GIBBONS—aged 75 years. [SS 21 April 1868]

Mr. Samuel GRABILL, aged 60 years, was killed. [VV 29 July 1868]

On the 10th inst., James Thomas GREGORY, only son of Charles E. and Margaret R. Gregory, of Staunton, aged 18 months. [SV 18 September 1868]

On the 2nd of January ... Alice [GREVER], daughter of Philip and Eliza Grever, in the sixteenth year of her age. [SS 3 November 1868]

At her residence on South River ... Jan. the 14th ... Mrs. Elizabeth HALL, wife of Mr. John Hall, aged 49 years, 3 months and 17 days. She leaves a husband and eight children. [SS 28 January 1868]

Died at the residence of her grandfather, Col. George C. Robertson, in Augusta county ... 14th instant, Annie H. HANGER, daughter of H. Miller Hanger, deceased, in the 12th year of her age. [SS 26 May 1868]

Died June 28th, of disease contracted in the Confederate army, Franklin J. HANNA, in the 38th year of his age. [SS 7 July 1868]

Died ... at his residence in Ritchie county, W. Va., on the 21st of January ... William HARRIS, Esq., a native of Augusta county .... In his younger days he transacted much business of trust and honor, as a justice, but especially as a fiduciary. [SS 17 March 1868]

At Wesleyan Female Institute, on Friday last, Willie Clement [HARRIS], infant son of Rev. Wm. A. and V. G. Harris—aged 9 months. [SS 18 August 1868]

In Staunton, on Wednesday night last ... Mr. David G. HARRY, in the 61st year of his age. [SS 2 June 1868]

Mr. James HAYS, who lived near Greenville, in this county, was found dead in his field, on last Saturday. [SS 5 May 1868]

At the residence of Henry Bare, in this place, on Tuesday last, Bettie A. HEFLIN, daughter of John M. and Mary E. Heflin, aged 12 years and 11 months. [SS 1 September 1868] ... at the residence of her grandfather, Henry Bare ... 25th of August ... was one of a pair of twin sisters ... the remaining sister ... is now the only child left. [SS 6 October 1868]

On the 9th ultimo, at his father's residence in Greenville, Augusta, Jas. H. HEIZER ... in the 23d year of his age. [SS 1 September 1868]

Died on the 12th of June ... Jannie [HENRY], youngest daughter of James Henry. [SS 7 July 1868]

A Young man named HIX was drowned in North River Sunday week. [VV 26 August 1868]

On the 21st of March, at West View, Mrs. Mary HOBBS, wife of Mr. James Hobbs and daughter of Mr. Henry Eidson, Esq. [SS 31 March 1868]

At his residence on the Calf Pasture River in this County ... 13th of November, Mr. Renix HODGE, aged 76 years. [SS 15 December 1868]

At the residence of her son-in-law, Capt. J. B. Finks, in the town of Waynesboro, on the 23rd ult., Mrs. Catherine R. HOLLINGSWORTH, in the 72nd year of her age. [SS 6 October 1868] .... connected herself with the Baptist Church. [SV 2 October 1868]

At Mt. Solon, Jan. 14th ... Miss Lizzie C. HOPEWELL, aged 30 years .... member of the Methodist church. [SS 28 January 1868]

On the 11th Dec. ... Elizabeth HOUFF, aged 61 years and 23 days. [SS 22 December 1868]

Mrs. HUMPHREYS died on last Thursday, on the farm of Wm. Crawford, near Mt. Sidney, in this county, at the remarkably old age of 106 years. [SS 14 January 1868]

... July 30th Benj. Franklin [HUPMAN], infant son of John A. and Isabella Hupman—aged 19 months and 4 days. [SS 11 August 1868]

... May 4th, Ella Franklin [IDE,], in the 8th year of her age, and on the same day, Annie Baldwin [IDE], in the 6th year of her age—daughters of Louis and \_\_\_\_\_ Ide. [SS 12 May 1868] On the 12th inst., Estelle Sophie [IDE], in the 4th year of her age, daughter of Prof. E. Louis and Sarah Ide, of Staunton. [SS 19 May 1868]

Ben. JACKSON, an old and well known colored man, the former servant of J. Wayt Bell, Esq., died in this place on the 31st of December last .... He ... died with the consolations of religion. [SS 14 January 1868]

Died ... near the Americus Mills, Mr. John JONES, aged about 65 years. [SS 17 March 1868]

In Staunton, on the 25th instant, Louis B. [KELLEY], aged 2 years and 6 months, son of John and K. M. Kelley. [SS 29 September 1868] ... Louis Borromeo [KELLY]. [SV 2 October 1868]

Died, at the residence of Major Jos. C. Sexton, in this place, on Monday evening last, William KERR, a resident of Staunton, aged about

seventy years. The deceased came here, from Morristown, Tenn., about 3 months since.— *Wytheville Dispatch* [SS 26 May 1868]

In Middlebrook ... Sept. 24th, Mr. Philip KERSEY, formerly of Staunton, aged 69 years. [SS 6 October 1868] ... KEESEY. [VV 7 October 1868]

On the 15th of September, at the residence of his aunt, Mrs. Amanda Spitler, in Augusta, in the eighth year of her age ... David B. KIBLER, son of Abraham Kibler of West Virginia. [SS 29 September 1868]

On the 12th inst., at his residence near Waynesboro, 'Benjamin KOINER. [SV 18 September 1868]

On the 13th instant, at the residence of Mr. Sutliff D. Blake, Mrs. Polly LEE, formerly of Rockingham county. [SS 28 January 1868]

The mother [\_\_\_\_\_] MAHONE of Gen. Wm. Mahone died recently in Southampton county—and his youngest child [\_\_\_\_\_] MAHONE died at Coyner Springs a few days ago. [SV 11 September 1868]

... John L. MARYE ... died ... at his residence, "Brompton," on Saturday evening. [VV 5 August 1868]

On the 10th inst. ... Greenberry \_\_\_\_\_ MATTHEWS, aged 28 years and nine months. [SS 17 March 1868]

... Capt. Jno. H. McCLANAHAN, of the Horse Artillery of the A. N. Va., is no more. He died at Victoria, Texas .... at first a private in the Staunton Artillery, and then raised a company of Horse Artillery for Imboden's Brigade. [VV 30 September 1868]

On ... the 9th inst., at Barterbrook ... Mr. James McCOMB, upwards of 70 years. [SS 12 May 1868] ... at his home ... Mr. James McCOMB, Senior about 68 years of age. [SS 3 November 1868]

Nasby says of the late Mrs. MENKOM, that she leaves several widowers to divide the grief between them. [VV 9 September 1868] Dr. Holland writes concerning the death of Adah Isaac MENKOM: "A story is current, which I give for what it is worth, that she laid a wager that she could drink a given quantity of whiskey; won her bet and died." [VV 7 October 1868]

Near North River Gap, in this county ... the 4th inst., Christian MICHAEL, aged about 78 .... left a widow and a large family of children. [SS 13 October 1868]

... Capt. Thos. E. MONTGOMERY ... died ... 8th ... December. [SS 15 December 1868] ... Thos. Ed. MONTGOMERY, of Deerfield ... died ... 18th inst. [SV 18 December 1868]

In Waynesboro', on the 17th inst. ... Mrs. Elizabeth MYERS, wife of Rev. Hiram Myers, at an advanced age .... member of the M. E. Church for upwards of 20 years. [SS 30 June 1868]

On last June, in this County, Willie R. [MYERS], infant son of Franklin H. and Martha A. Myers, aged 1 year and 9 months. [VV 1 July 1868]

On the 31st ult., in this place ... Mrs. Mildred NEWCOME, in the 69th (?) year of her age. [VV 15 April 1868]

... at the residence of her father, J. W. C. NEWHAM, in Waynesboro, on the 27th ult., Miss J. Annis NEWHAM, in her 22nd year. [SS 4 August 1868] Miss J. Annie NEWMAN. [VV 5 August 1868]

John NEWTON, Esq., one of the oldest ... citizens of this county, died at his residence in Greenville on last Thursday night, at an advanced age. [SS 1 September 1868] ... the 28th of August ... in the 71st year of his age .... For many years he was a Director of the Western Lunatic Asylum and a magistrate of his native county .... was baptized into the ... M. E. Church, South. [SS 15 September 1868]

On the 9th Miss Margaret B. NOON, of Staunton, in the twentieth year of her age. [VV 15 July 1868]

Tribute of Respect. At a special communication of Staunton Lodge No. 13, held at the Masonic Hall ... January 13th .... [was] announced the death of Bro. Eli H. PARRENT, and ... Bros. A. M. Fauntleroy, Wm. A. Burke, and S. J. Davis were appointed the committee ... [to] submit ... resolutions. Teste, James F. Patterson, Secretary. [SS 21 January 1868] On the 12th instant, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Gillock, in this place ... in the 73d year. [VV 22 January 1868]

On the 6th instant, near Mt. Sidney, Mr. Henry PETERS, aged 21 years and 7 months .... leaves a widowed mother and little family. [SS 28 January 1868]

Died, at the residence of Alex. P. Eskridge, Esq., in Montgomery county ... on February 15th ... Col. William Madison PEYTON, in the 64th year of his age .... resided at Alta Vista, in Albemarle county, but having been called to Abingdon, by the death of his son-in-law, Hon. Walter PRESTON, he was returning home and ... on a visit to his brother-in-law, Mr. Eskridge .... Col. P. was the oldest son of the late John Howe Peyton of Staunton .... He married a daughter of Judge Allen Taylor, Chancellor of Staunton District, and for a short time practiced law at the Staunton bar. He was best known ... in connection with Roanoke county, where he lived for many years ... was distinguished as an agriculturalist and as an able representative in the Virginia Legislature ... was a pioneer in the development of the Cannel Coal interests of West Virginia, where a town and extensive mines yet bear his name. This ... led him to remove to New York where he ... became President of the Old Dominion Society. [SS 18 February 1868]

Near Mt. Sidney, on the 11th instant, Major Robert T. POAGE .... was severely wounded at the battle of the Wilderness ... leaves a ... widow and an infant daughter. [SS 14 January 1868]

In this place ... 22nd inst., Virginia Coldwell [POINTS], infant daughter of W. J. and Adele Points—aged 4 months and 17 days. [SS 25 August 1868]

Drowned, on the 16th ult., at the landing of O. Hancock, Stony creek ... John POSEY, in the 23rd year of his age. [VV 1 July 1868]

... Mrs. POWERS, wife of Prof. Pike Powers, of this place ... on Monday. [SS 18 February 1868]



On the 22d inst., Carrie [RILEY], infant daughter of W. J. D. and Caroline Riley, of Staunton. [SS 4 August 1868] On the 28th inst. ... Carrie [RILEY] ... aged 6 months. [VV 29 July 1868]

At the residence of Mr. C. H. Gates, near Sherando, on the 30th of March, Mrs. Mary ROGERS in her 63rd year. [SS 7 April 1868]

At Cottonwood, California, March 7th ... Andrew J. RUFF, aged 42 years—formerly of Augusta county ... on several occasions, been elected a Justice of the Peace. [SS 28 April 1868]

Died Feb. 10th, at the residence of his son-in-law, Wm. Brown, Jacob RUFF, Sr., in the 81st year of his age. [SS 25 February 1868]

Near Parnassus, in this county ... 7th instant ... Mr. Henry RUSSELL, aged 82 years, 11 months and 10 days .... member of the Methodist church. [SS 15 December 1868]

A young man ... Isaac RYAN, who served in the Confederate service, recently died and was buried on Solomon's Island, Calvert county, Md. He said his father's name was John Ryan, a shoemaker by trade, who lived in the Valley of Virginia. [SS 10 November 1868]

On the 20th ult., at his residence in this county, Jos. B. SCOTT, in the 67th year of his age. [SS 4 August 1868]

Died on the 7th ult., at the residence of Geo. Crobarger, near Greenville ... Mrs. Abbie SHIELDS in the 82nd year of her age. [SS 1 December 1868]

Mr. Geo. SIMMERMAN, an old and respected citizen of this county, died from the effects of a broken leg ... the 30th ult. .... about 80 years. [SS 11 August 1868]

... J. Morrison SMITH ... son, the first born of Rev. B. M. Smith, D. D. ... departed this life ... 10th instant—*Central Presbyterian*. [SS 27 October 1868]

At her residence in Staunton ... 2nd instant, Miss Lucy Jane SNYDER, aged 72 years, 3 months and 3 days. [SS 8 December 1868]

... 16th instant, at the residence of Mr. Christopher STOVER ... [who] was killed and Mr. Robert McCreary seriously wounded .... near the Greenville and Waynesboro road, and about 7 miles from the latter place .... Mr. Stover's family consisted of Mr. Stover, an old man in his 68th year, his wife and two grown daughters—his other children being married left the paternal roof some years ago.—Messrs. William and Robert McCreary and two Messrs. Kindig, with five young ladies were on a visit to Mr. Stover's family .... Mr. M. R. Coalter, who lives but a few hundred yards away ... found Mr. Stover ... perfectly dead. [SS 24 March 1868] ... Joseph Atkins and Charles R. Gilbert were arrested by Wm. M. Bush, constable in the Waynesboro District, and committed to jail by Justices Wm. Chapman and George A. Bruce of Waynesboro .... One ... is the son, and the other is the son-in-law of Jesse T. Gilbert, who lives about five miles from Staunton. [SS 31 March 1868] .... represented by counsel—Messrs. J. B. Baldwin, Bolivar Christian and J. B. Watts. [SS 7 April 1868]

On the ... 15th ... Mrs. Ann R. STUBBS, wife of R. P. Stubbs, aged 40 years, and 15 days .... left a husband and five children. [SS 21 January 1868]

In Greenville ... May 16th, James S. SUPPLE, in the 34th year of his age. [SS 26 May 1868] ... 15th inst. [VV 27 May 1868]

... Rev. Daniel THOMAS, of the Tunker church .... died at his residence, near Beaver Creek, on Saturday morning last ... in the 48th year of his age .... His remains were buried in the grave-yard at Beaver Creek church, on Sabbath ... the mournful occasion having been improved by funeral discourses from the Revs. Wm. Buckalew, of W. Va., and Abraham and Daniel Garber, of Augusta county, ministers belonging to the church of which Mr. Thomas was ... a member.—*Rockingham Register*. [SS 20 October 1868]

On the 8th day of August ... John A. TRIMBLE died ... aged about 24 years, at the home of his father, in Hillsboro, Ohio .... "Little Jack Trimble" .... was descended from the Trimbles of Augusta county, some of whom emigrated to Ohio when it was a wilderness .... He ... spent several years before the war with his cousin, Colonel J. Marshall McCue .... He volunteered his services ... [1862] to Colonel, afterwards, General, Imboden .... was accepted as a courier and a scout.—*Richmond Whig*. [SV 11 September 1868]

Died ... May 11th, Claude Eugene [TURNER], son of Prof. A. J. and Mrs. Kate M. Turner—aged 9 years and 6 months. [SS 12 May 1868]

Judge Wesley WATSON, colored, died on the 3d inst. .... formerly the servant of Judge Sheffey of this place. [VV 15 January 1868]

On the 6th of last month, near Waynesboro, Mrs. Margaret [WHEELER], wife of Mr. Joel Wheeler, in the 38th year of her age. [SS 3 November 1868] ... near Hermitage. [VV 27 May 1868] On the 6th day of May, near Hermitage in this county, Mrs. Margaret A. WHEELER, wife of Joel Y. Wheeler, in the 38th year of her age. [SS 26 May 1868]

Died, at his residence near Waynesborough, on the 3rd inst., Robert WHITE, in the 72nd year of his age. [SS 15 September 1868] ... Robt. M. WHITE. [SV 18 September 1868]

On the 10th of March, Daniel WILSON, Esq., in the 65th year of his age. [SS 31 March 1868]

Died, near Greenville ... Feb. 1st ... Miss Margaret C. WISEMAN, aged 19 years, 10 months and 3 days. [SS 11 February 1868]

In Staunton, on the 18th of November, Mr. F. M. WOOD ... aged 35 years. [SS 8 December 1868]

On the 21st ult., at the residence of David Henkels, near Staunton, Andrew Ella WOODWARD, daughter of Joseph A. and Angeline Woodward, aged 5 years, 8 months and 10 days. [SS 10 January 1868]

At Washington city ... 26th, Allie Virginia [YEAKLE], infant daughter of G. C. and M. E. Yeakle. [SS 4 August 1868] ... formerly of Staunton. [VV 5 August 1868]



Died at the residence of her father, in Harrisonburg ... 15th inst., Miss Merrill YOST, in the 16th year of her age. [SS 19 May 1868] ... Miss Merrill C. Yost, in the 18th year of her age, daughter of Maj. S. M. Yost. [SS 26 May 1868] ... Tribute of Respect ... Wesleyan Female Institute ... student. [VV 3 June 1868]

At his residence near Buffalo Gap, in Augusta county, Mr. Jacob ZONES, on the 13th of March. [SS 31 March 1868]

... the Cemetery which surrounds the Episcopal church in Staunton, was the only public receptacle of the dead, in this vicinity, for more than one hundred years .... Persons of all denominations, and of all colors, were buried there for more than a century, and the fact that no room was left for new graves, compelled our citizens, in 1850, to establish a new cemetery .... Within the old cemetery, lie the remains of Alexander St. CLAIR and Judge Archibald STUART—two of the founders of the town .... Daniel SHEFFEY, John H. PEYTON, Joseph COWAN, Peter HEISKELL, Dr. Wm. BOYS, John C. SOWERS, Jacob KINNEY, Chesley KINNEY, Dr. Addison WADDELL, John McDOWELL, Gen'l Samuel BLACKBURN, Vincent TAPP, M. GARBER, M. HARMAN, E. STRIBLING, Capt. WILLIAMSON. [SS 26 May 1868]

Within the last few weeks the remains of over twenty soldiers who fell at the battle of McDowell, in Highland county, were taken up and boxed about a year ago, were brought to Staunton and properly buried in the soldiers' cemetery. They belonged to the class of honored "unknown dead." [SS 21 July 1868]

## IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Thomas W. Atkinson\*  
Harry E. Baylor, Jr.\*  
Winston Moore Crickenberger  
F. Berkeley Glenn  
Miss Elizabeth H. Perry\*  
Elwood Lewis Serrett

\*Charter Member

## LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. Kenneth Appell, Allendale, New Jersey  
Dr. William L. DeLeeuw, Staunton, Virginia  
W. Clay Hamilton, Jr., Rockville, Maryland  
Mrs. Quinton C. Keller, St. Louis, Missouri

## NEW MEMBERS SINCE FALL 1988

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald L. Amspacher, Middlebrook, Virginia  
 Robert Baker, Staunton, Virginia  
 James W. Brady, Yorba Linda, California  
 Harold Carwell, Churchville, Virginia  
 Austin Chinn, Staunton, Virginia  
 David W. Coffey, Lexington, Virginia  
 Dwayne Coughenour, San Antonio, Texas  
 Edward Eberhardt, St. Paul, Minnesota  
 Mrs. Kathryn P. Holsinger, Raphine, Virginia  
 Ms. Donna E. Lewis, Waverly, Ohio  
 Nancy Masters, Olive Hill, Kentucky  
 Avis McCutchan, Shawsville, Virginia  
 Larry L. Misenheimer, Staunton, Virginia  
 William B. Patterson, Jr., Crimora, Virginia  
 Ms. Linda Petzke, Verona, Virginia  
 Allen W. Pfeiffer, Staunton, Virginia  
 Florence B. Pfeiffer, Staunton, Virginia  
 Doris L. Roberts, Tempe, Arizona  
 Eva Selle, Otis Orchard, Washington  
 Patricia Schlick, Waynesboro, Virginia  
 Caroline Schooley, Staunton, Virginia  
 Sue P. Schultz, Charlottesville, Virginia  
 Betty Cleveland Van Buren, Mount Sidney, Virginia  
 Mrs. Nancy P. Walden, Springfield, Virginia  
 Dennis Wine, Mount Sidney, Virginia  
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